

REMARKS

Further to the remarks made in the Response to the Final Office Action submitted on May 1, 2008, Applicants are hereby submitting a certified translation of the priority document JP 2003-298007. Accordingly, Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 is hereby perfected.

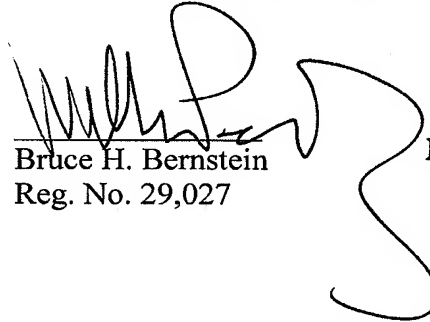
In the Response to the Final Office Action submitted on May 1, 2008, Applicants submitted that the subject matter of independent claim 1 of the present application, from which dependent claims 2-28 depend, is disclosed in Japanese Patent Application 2003-298007 (published as JP 2005-012155) which was filed on August 21, 2003. Further, Applicants noted that the date of the above-noted priority document is before the publication date of the SUGIMOTO document, which is October 9, 2003. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections applying SUGIMOTO alone or in combination..

At least in view of the attached certified translation of a priority document and the remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding and rejections, together with an indication of the allowability of all pending claims, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Response or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
Takuma HASHIMOTO et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce H. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191